

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend page 1, paragraph 5, to read as follows:

[In s]Some [types of] cold sterilizing apparatuses[, the] have lamps that are [sunk] immersed in[to] the container with the fluid to be sterilized, whereas, in other s [types], the fluid passes through tubes, [made] constructed of a material permeable to ultraviolet radiation, which are exposed to the rays of the lamps arranged nearby. Among[st] the [known configurations of this second] latter type of apparatus, there are two [that are more] relatively common variations [having, in the]. The first [case,] is provided with linear lamps surrounded by a bundle of tubes generally parallel thereto [them and, in a]. The second [case,] type has many parallel lamps arranged between two curtains of parallel tubes.

Please amend page 3, first full paragraph, as amended previously, to read as follows:

OBJECTS AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide an apparatus for continuous cold sterilization of a fluid that permits heating of the fluid but without sacrificing the effects of ultraviolet radiation emitted by the lamp and, hence, the sterilizing capability of the apparatus.

Another object of the present invention is to provide an apparatus for cold sterilization of a fluid that not only avoids the bulk iness of conventional arrangements, but also maintains effective and efficient fluid processing speeds.

A further object of the present invention is to provide an apparatus for cold sterilization of a fluid that [provides] maxim[um]izes exploitation of ultraviolet radiation emitted while minimizing the risk of incomplete or nonexistent sterilization.

Please amend page 3, fourth full paragraph, to read as follows:

FIG. 1 is a sectional view of an apparatus for cold sterilization of a fluid by ultraviolet rays, according to one aspect of the present invention, taken along a vertical plane passing through [the] an axis of the lamp;

Please amend page 4, paragraph 1, to read as follows:

FIG. 2 is an enlarged detail view of section A in FIG. 1; and

Please amend page 4, paragraph 1, to read as follows:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Referring now to the drawings and, more particularly, to FIGS. 1 - 3, there is shown generally a specific, illustrative, apparatus for continuous cold sterilization of a fluid, in accordance with various aspects of the present invention. According to one

embodiment, shown generally in FIG. 1, the apparatus comprises a box-shaped casing, at least one ultraviolet radiation source 2, e.g., of [the] a linear tubular lamp type, and at least one duct 3, permeable to such radiation, through which a fluid 4 to be sterilized flows. The duct has a portion 3a that extends generally helically around source 2, so that all of the radiation emitted therefrom crosses the fluid and exerts a selected germicidal effect. At its outlet, duct 3 is preferably connected to a dispensing device 10.